

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Int. nat. Application No

PCT/GB 03/03172

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7 B63B21/26

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 B63B E21B G01N

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	WO 01 32501 A (MACRAE MICHAEL ;PERRATONE RENE (FR); POLLACK JACK (MC); OFFSHORE E) 10 May 2001 (2001-05-10)	1,2
Y	page 5, line 5 - line 27; figures 1A-4	3,4,6-12
Y	US 6 066 015 A (BROWN JAMES D) 23 May 2000 (2000-05-23) abstract; figures	4,8,9
Y	US 3 633 685 A (PIEXOTO MANUEL R) 11 January 1972 (1972-01-11) abstract; figures 1,3,11	3,6,11
Y	US 3 277 969 A (VINCENT RENIC P) 11 October 1966 (1966-10-11) column 2, line 48 - line 63; figure 1	3,7
	-/-	

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

A document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

E earlier document but published on or after the international filing date

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O document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

P document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

T later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

X document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

Y document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.

Z document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

29 September 2003

Date of mailing of the international search report

14/10/2003

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Int: 1st Application No
PCT/GB 03/03172

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

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Y	WO 97 14609 A (SELANTIC AS ; LIEN ELDAR (NO); REE SIGURD (NO)) 24 April 1997 (1997-04-24) the whole document	3,12
Y	FR 2 800 871 A (FRANCE ETAT PONTS CHAUSSEES) 11 May 2001 (2001-05-11) abstract; figures	10

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Information on patent family members

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